



STATE ADVISORY GROUP (SAG) MEETING

September 14, 2020

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Participating Members:

Eric Ford, Chair
Shameka Stanford, Vice-Chair
Kara Aanenson
Kirsten Andersen
Diana Barney
Jeffrey Breslin
Marone Brown
John Burton
Kathy Estrada
Michelle Farr
Derrell Frazier
Annie Hansen-Combs
Shannon McFadden
Elizabeth Park
Heidi Rochon
Joe Rossow
Kimberly Sauer
Jonathan Shepherd
Darren Stephenson
Laura Wilt

Guests

Shobhit Negi, SAG Candidate

Staff

Mary Abraham
Christina Drushel-Williams

Bill Harper
William Jernigan
Sabraya Knight
Chris Miele
Jessica Wheeler

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Ford called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and Mr. Miele called roll.

II. Approval of July 2020 Minutes

Mr. Ford directed members to the July 2020 meeting minutes previously sent. Ms. Sauer motioned to adopt the minutes as presented and Ms. Aanenson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

III. Old / New Business

- A. [Juvenile Justice Reform Council](#) - Mr. Ford provided members with an overview and update of the Juvenile Justice Reform Council (JJRC) and highlighted intersections between JJRC and SAG initiatives. JJRC updates will be provided at each full meeting of the SAG going forward.

Mr. Ford summarized the outcome of recent meetings and noted that the JJRC has set a goal to finalize its legislative recommendations by the end of the calendar year. The Department of Juvenile Services in cooperation with Local Management Boards successfully facilitated public listening sessions to solicit comments, feedback, and ideas from a total of 530 attendees across the State. Mr. Ford mentioned the positive pandemic-related impacts to arrest and detention disparities, and the JJRC's focus on continuing to advance equitable outcomes.

Mr. Frazier acknowledged the reductions to detention admissions and inquired about safeguards for those youth who are still entering or placed in detention and committed placements. Ms. Aanenson noted that although some youth are still experiencing detention admissions and placement, DJS is strategic and cautious with new admissions including [enhanced protocols to prevent the spread of COVID-19](#). DJS is also continually assessing the appropriateness of continued placement for youth not residing at home, including the identification of youth eligible for expedited discharge and supports to support reentry planning. For detailed information regarding DJS COVID-19 statistics including case and testing data please visit the [DJS Response to COVID-19](#) webpage.

Mr. Frazier referenced youth placed in detention and other facilities, and those affected by the digital divide, noting that these groups were not represented or heard from at DJS listening sessions. Mr. Ford noted that the JJRC is open to and prioritizes feedback from all youth and family members, and that he and Ms. Aanenson will broach this subject with JJRC members.

SAG members are encouraged to become familiar with the JJRC and its initiatives. To access data, reports, and meeting materials, please visit the Juvenile Justice Reform Council [website](#).

- B. State Advisory Group 3-Year Plan - Ms. Wheeler provided members with an overview of the SAG 3-year planning process, described the current [FY 2018 - 2020 3-Year Plan](#), and described next steps for the SAG to develop and implement the 2021-2023 plan. A draft summary of the 2018-2020 plan progress was provided to members. A 3-year plan subcommittee will be formed, and a survey for members to select their 2021-2023 purpose areas will be distributed. The target date for submission to OJJDP is March 2021.
- C. State Advisory Board for Juvenile Services - Ms. Aanenson provided a brief update on the Department of Juvenile Services [State Advisory Board](#). Ms. Aanenson noted the most recent meeting of the State Advisory Board focused primarily on review of the Department of Juvenile Services [COVID-19 Response and Data Presentation](#). The Board is primarily following the work of the Juvenile Justice Reform Council. Mr. Frazier asked about youth and the spread of COVID-19 in DJS facilities. Ms. Aanenson described that although new detention admissions have dramatically declined during the pandemic, an admission quarantine is in place at each facility.
- D. FY2021 NOFA - Award status - Ms. Wheeler directed members to the award sheet summary and asked that this document not be shared outside of the SAG. Ms. Wheeler also mentioned the [press release](#) announcing FY2021 awards, summarized details of the grant cycle, and referenced the SAG's preference toward applications with satisfactory plans to identify and reduce racial and ethnic disparities (RED).
- E. Emerging Leaders Subcommittee - Mr. Ford facilitated a discussion with members regarding the current state of the Emerging Leaders subcommittee, and offered suggestions to boost engagement. Among his ideas was the suggestion that an additional SAG member join Ms. Drushel-Williams to support the subcommittee. Ms. Drushel-Williams described recent efforts to engage the subcommittee, and encouraged SAG members to formulate and convey specific requests of the Emerging Leaders. Mr. Frazier encouraged the SAG to empower, communicate with, and engage the subcommittee in a manner that frames youth participation to be an investment not only for members of the subcommittee, but for all youth who contact the juvenile justice system.

Mr. Brown expressed his willingness to support the subcommittee and its initiatives. Ms. Aanenson advised that she will assist the subcommittee to connect with youth in committed programming if the subcommittee would like to explore that option.

F. Other Updates

Mr. Jernigan provided an update on the RED Diversion Toolkit and noted that Social Work interns are being sought to assist with its completion, with a goal to have the initial draft of the toolkit complete by January 2021. Additionally, in August 2020, the Baltimore County Police Department officially reconvened Baltimore County's Racial and Ethnic Disparities Committee. Mr. Jernigan will provide technical assistance and support to Baltimore County Police Department in their effort to address R/ED in their jurisdiction.

Mr. Harper gave a brief update on compliance during COVID-19. Visits have begun again but only with the lockups. Wellness checks are done prior to each visit. Data collection for all facilities for April 1st - September 30th is due on October 15th. Mr. Harper does not anticipate an increase in violations over last year.

- G. Grantee Meeting - Virtual Services Best Practices - The Grant Monitoring subcommittee will develop and facilitate a convening of all FY2021 grantees to discuss best practices while operating during the pandemic.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Next Meeting:

November 9, 2020

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

meet.google.com/acd-zqvw-nxo

NOTE: All meetings will be held via Google Meet unless otherwise indicated. Calendar invitations will contain the login information for each meeting. When in-person meetings resume, they will be held at 100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD 21032

[SAG Member Resources - Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services](#)